

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 131500Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7137
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USNATO

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, PEPR, UR, DA
SUBJ: DANES EXPEL SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS FROM DANISH WATERS

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 5571, (B) COPENHAGEN 5570

1. SEVERAL SEPT. 12 DANISH DAILIES REPORTED THAT ON THE PRE-
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CEDING DAY A DANISH NAVAL CUTTER HAD EXPELLED THREE SOVIET
NAVAL VESSELS FROM DANISH WATERS. ACCORDING TO THE COPENHAGEN
DAILY BERLINGSKE TIDENDE THE AREA WHERE THE INCURSION OCCURRED
(ALBAEK BAY OF NORTHEAST JUTLAND) WAS ENCOMPASSED BY THE
REVISED BASELINES ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 21, 1978 (REFTELS).

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS, WHICH DANISH DEFENSE COMMAND AND MFA SOURCES

CONFIRMED AS ACCURATE, REPORTED THAT IN RECENT DAYS THERE HAD BEEN INCREASED SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE AREA, APPARENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATO EXERCISE NORTHERN WEDDING. ON SEPTEMBER 7 SEVERAL SOVIET NAVY VESSELS, A KRIVAK CLASS MISSILE-DESTROYER, A MIRKA CLASS FRIGATE, A RIGA CLASS DESTROYER, A TANKER AND A SEA-GOING TUG, JOINED ON THE WEEKEND BY A W CLASS SUBMARINE, TOOK UP POSITIONS IN ALBAEK BAY. ON SEPTEMBER 10, THE KRIVAK AND RIGA CLASS VESSELS DEPARTED FOR THE NORTH SEA AND THE SUB PASSED THROUGH THE GREAT BELT INTO THE BALTIC. ON MONDAY, THE DANISH AUTHORITIES SENT A NAVY CUTTER TO NOTIFY THE REMAINING VESSELS THAT THEIR PRESENCE WAS IN VIOLATION OF DANISH REGULATIONS, AND THE THREE SOVIET VESSELS DEPARTED WITHOUT PROTEST.

3. AS PRESS REPORTED, WARSAW PACT FORCES HAVE FOR SOME YEARS USED ALBAEK BAY FOR ANCHORAGE, PRESUMED NAVAL INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND REFUELING IN ROUTE TO AND FROM THE BALTIC. IT WAS SUCH PRACTICES THAT DANISH GOVERNMENT WISHED TO RESTRICT BY INTRODUCING THE REVISED BASELINES (REF A). UNTIL THIS INSTANCE, ACCORDING TO AN MFA SOURCE, THE DANISH AUTHORITIES HAD NOT HAD OCCASION TO ENFORCE THE NEW TERRITORIAL LIMITS. THE DANES' RELUCTANCE TO CONFRONT THE RUSSIANS, WHO THEY SUSPECTED MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE NEW TERRITORIAL WATERS RESTRICTIONS, LED THEM TO DELAY ORDERING THE SOVIET VESSELS OUT FOR SEVERAL DAYS. AN UNPUBLICIZED SPECIAL CONSIDERATION WAS THAT TWO OF THE SOVIET VESSELS DETECTED LAST WEEK IN ALBAEK BAY HAD JUST COMPLETED A NAVAL VISIT TO COPENHAGEN (USDAO MSG I.R. 6826061478)

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AND THE DANES SUSPECTED THAT THE VISIT COMMANDER, VICE ADMIRAL IVAN M. KAPITANETS, WAS ON BOARD. IN FACT, THE DANES WAITED UNTIL THESE VESSELS HAD WITHDRAWN ON SUNDAY BEFORE ORDERING THEIR CUTTER TO NOTIFY THE REMAINING SHIPS THAT THEY WERE ILLEGALLY IN DANISH WATERS.

4. INASMUCH AS THE DANES' EXPULSION OF THE SOVIET VESSELS HAS BEEN PUBLICIZED, AN MFA SOURCE SPECULATED THAT A SOVIET PROTEST MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING. AS OF COB SEPTEMBER 12, HOWEVER, NONE HAD BEEN RECEIVED. MANSHEL

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Message Attributes

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